THE MAXX
image
3
MAY
$1.95
$2.45 CANADA

# image™ COMICS PRESENTS

# THE MAXX™

Story • Pencils • Inks
**SAM KIETH**

Dialogue
**BILL MESSNER-LOEBS**

Finishes
**JIM SINCLAIR**

Lettering
**MIKE HEISLER**
**KEVIN CUNNINGHAM**

Color
**STEVE OLIFF**
**& OLYOPTICS**

Film Output
**TONY KELLY**
**& KELL-O-GRAPHICS**

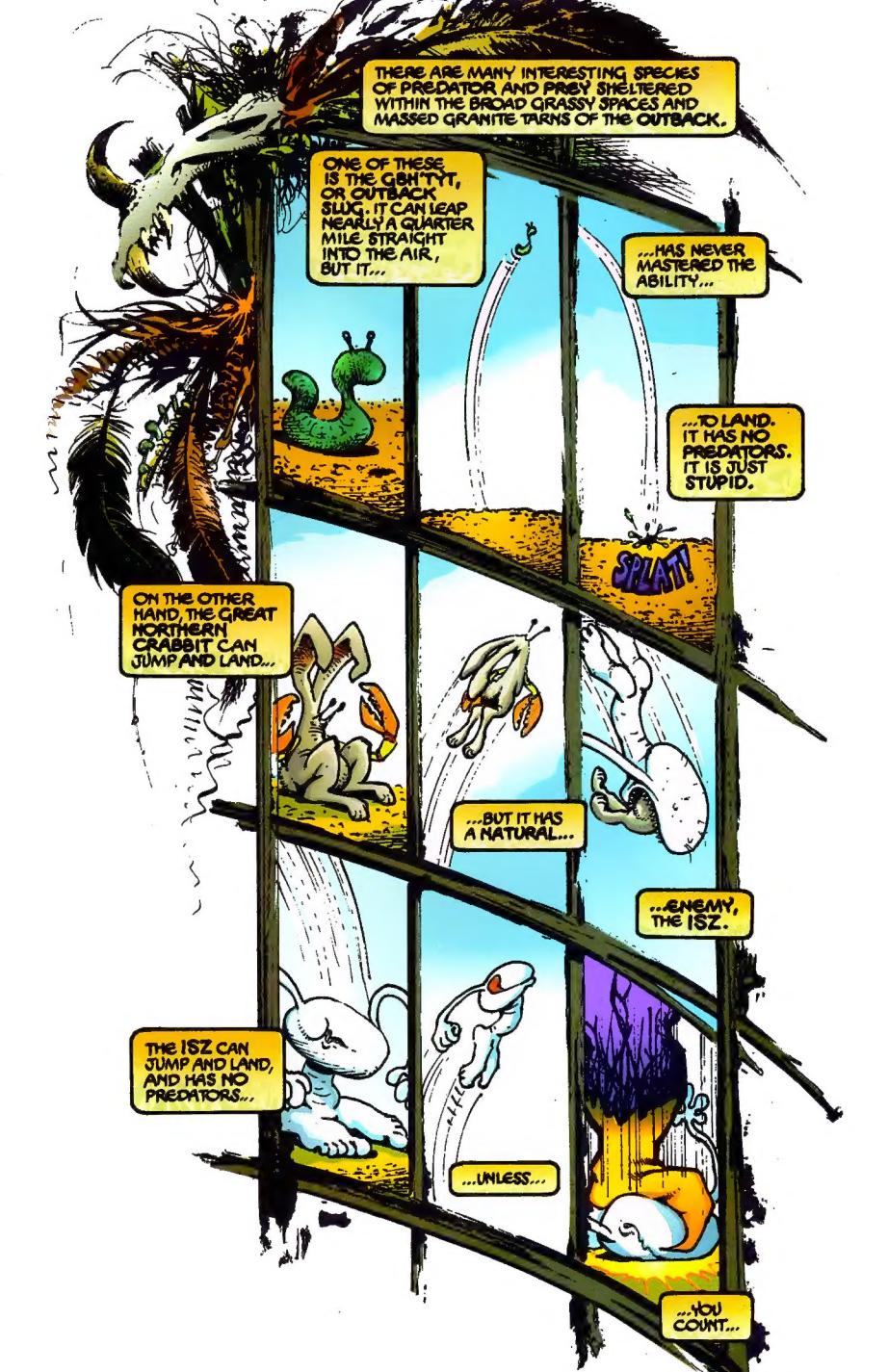
Logo
**CHANCE WOLF**

---

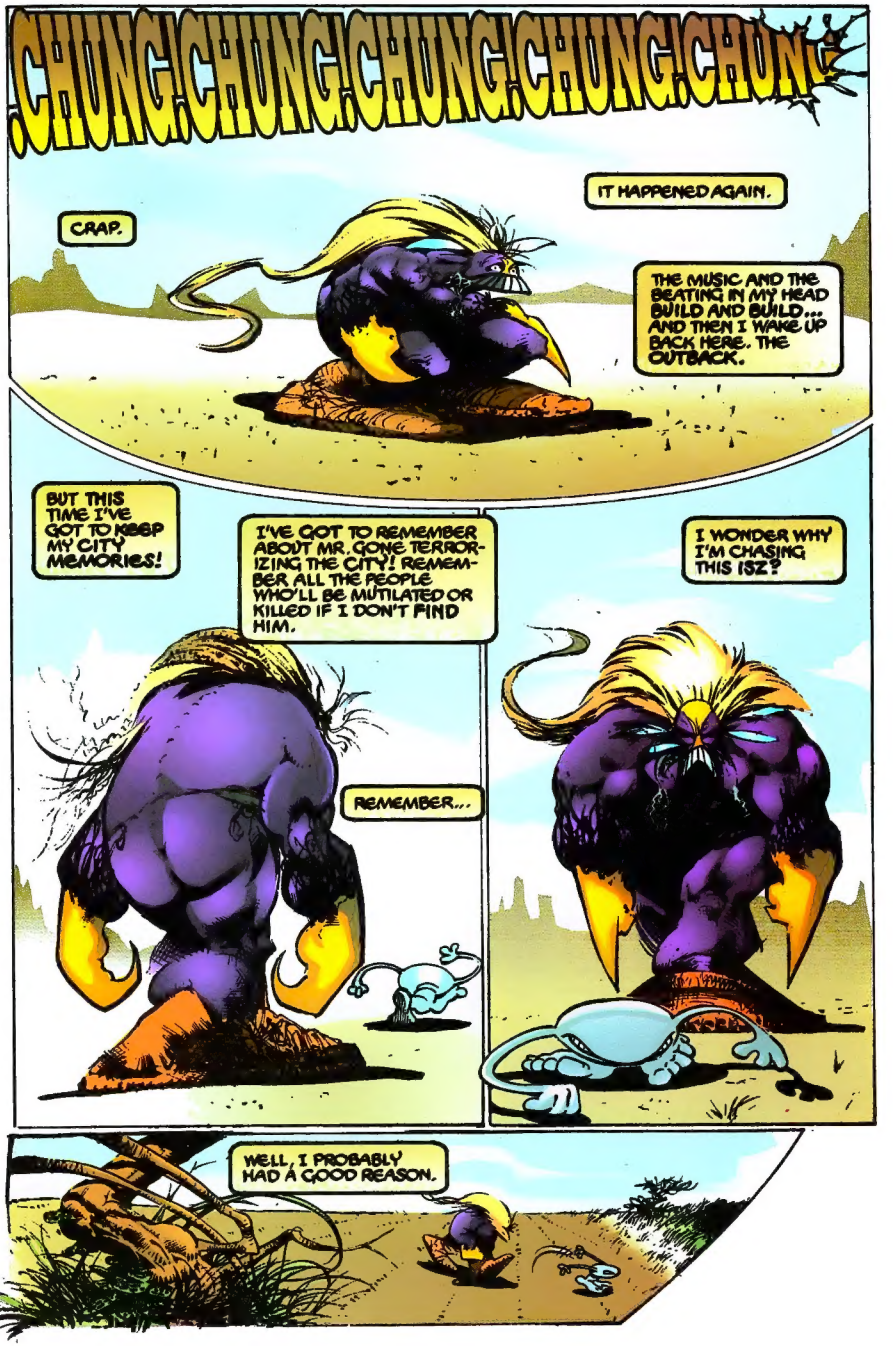
## FOR IMAGE COMICS:

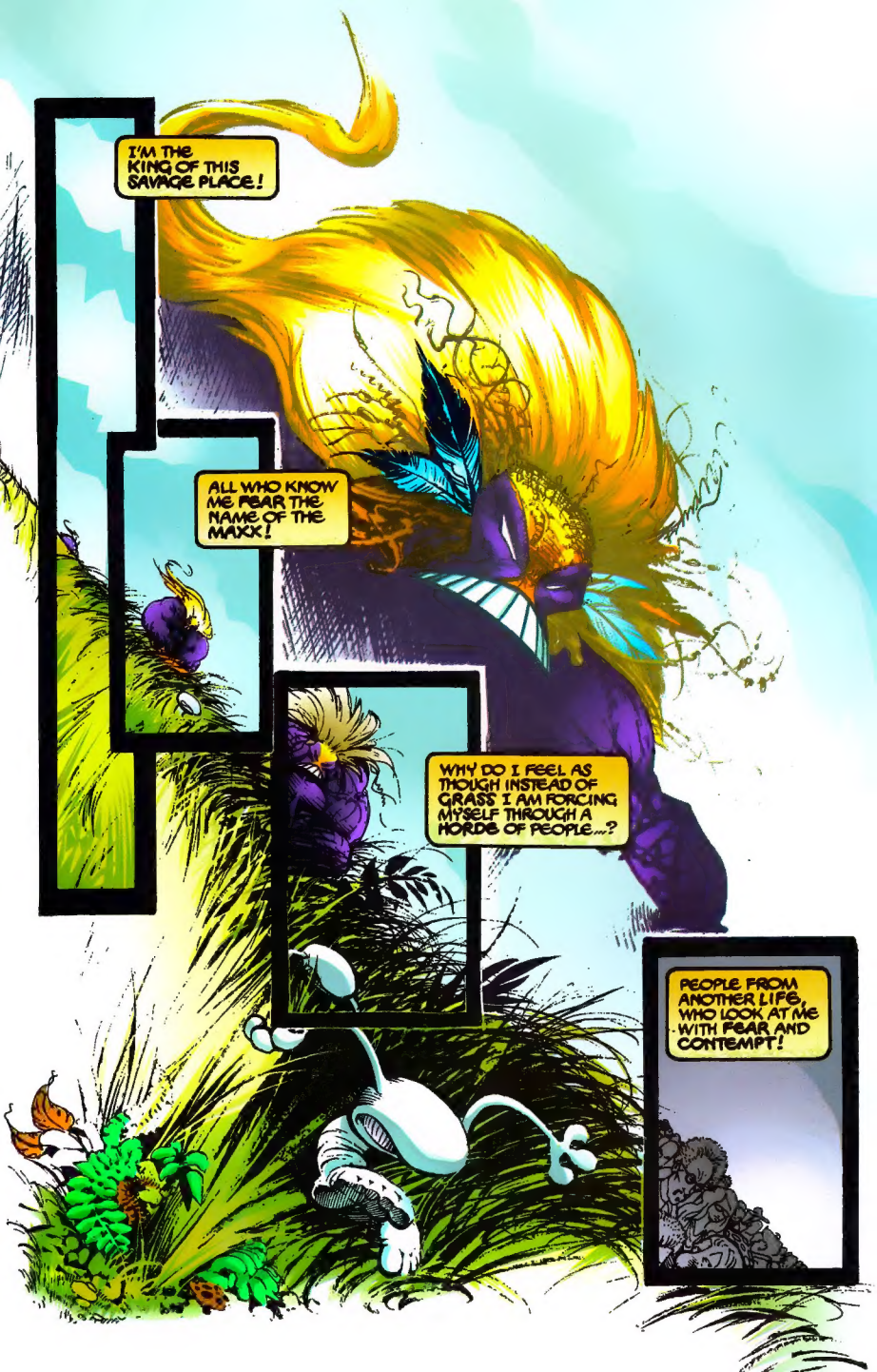
| | |
|---|---|
| Publisher | TONY LOBITO |
| Promotions | KYLE ZIMMERMAN |
| Distribution | GERMAINE ZACHARIAH |
| Production Manager | MARIKA BRISTOL |
| Art Director | DOUG GRIFFITH |
| Administrative Assistant | KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM |
| Controller | JOHN COGAN |
| Traffic Coordinator | TERESA CESPEDES |

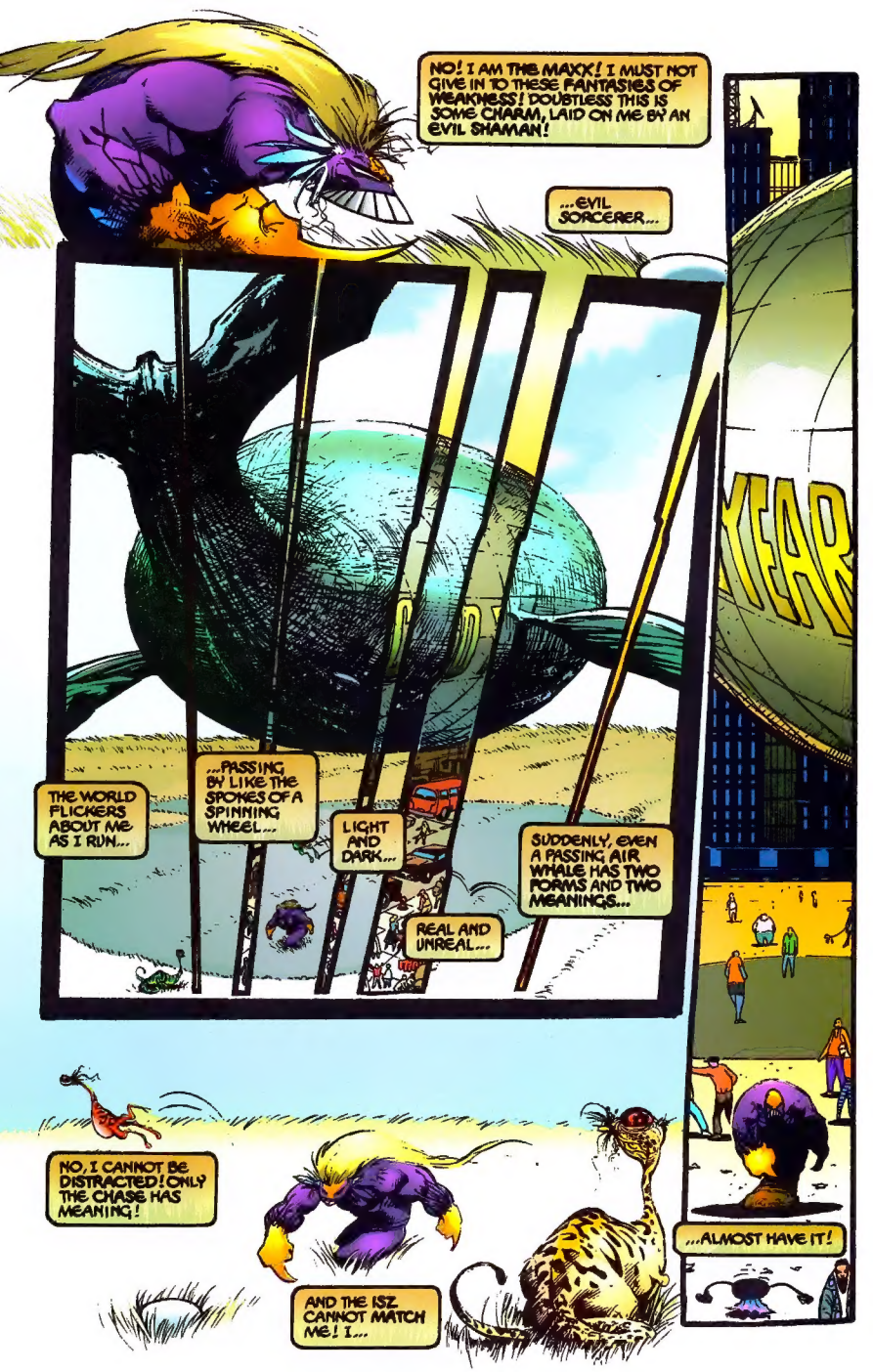
MAXX #3. May 1993. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics. Entire contents TM & 1993 by Sam Kieth, all rights reserved. "*Stop reading this—GET A LIFE!*" Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Sam Kieth. Send correspondence to: Sam Kieth, 4363 Hazel Avenue, Suite 1-285, Fair Oaks, California, 95628. Publishers and creator assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials. Printed in Canada

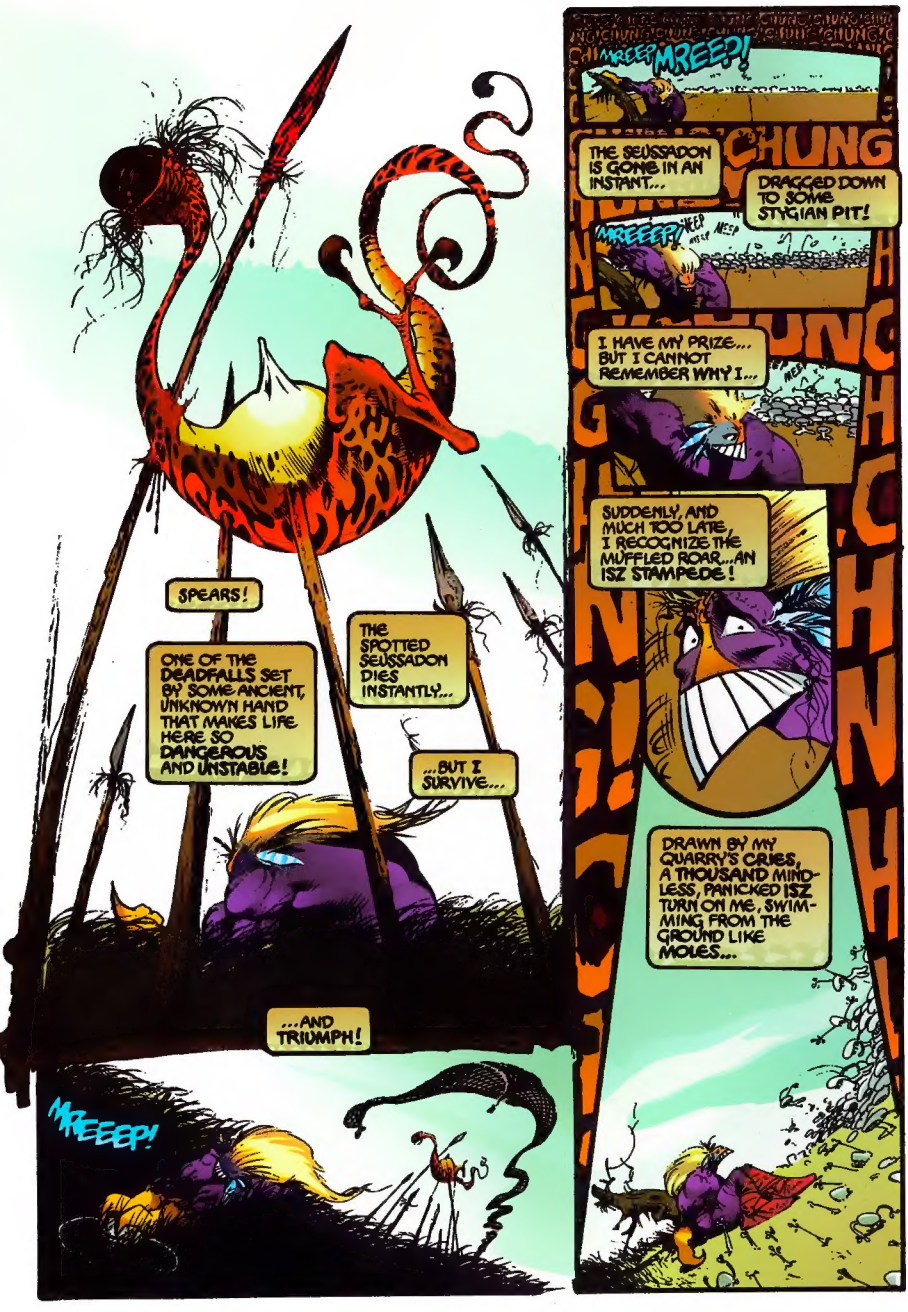

THERE ARE MANY INTERESTING SPECIES OF PREDATOR AND PREY SHELTERED WITHIN THE BROAD GRASSY SPACES AND MASSED GRANITE TARNS OF THE OUTBACK.
ONE OF THESE IS THE GBH'TYT, OR OUTBACK SLUG. IT CAN LEAP NEARLY A QUARTER MILE STRAIGHT INTO THE AIR, BUT IT...
...HAS NEVER MASTERED THE ABILITY...
...TO LAND. IT HAS NO PREDATORS. IT IS JUST STUPID.
SPLAT!
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GREAT NORTHERN CRABBIT CAN JUMP AND LAND...
...BUT IT HAS A NATURAL...
...ÆNEMY, THE ISZ.
THE ISZ CAN JUMP AND LAND, AND HAS NO PREDATORS...
...UNLESS...
...YOU COUNT...

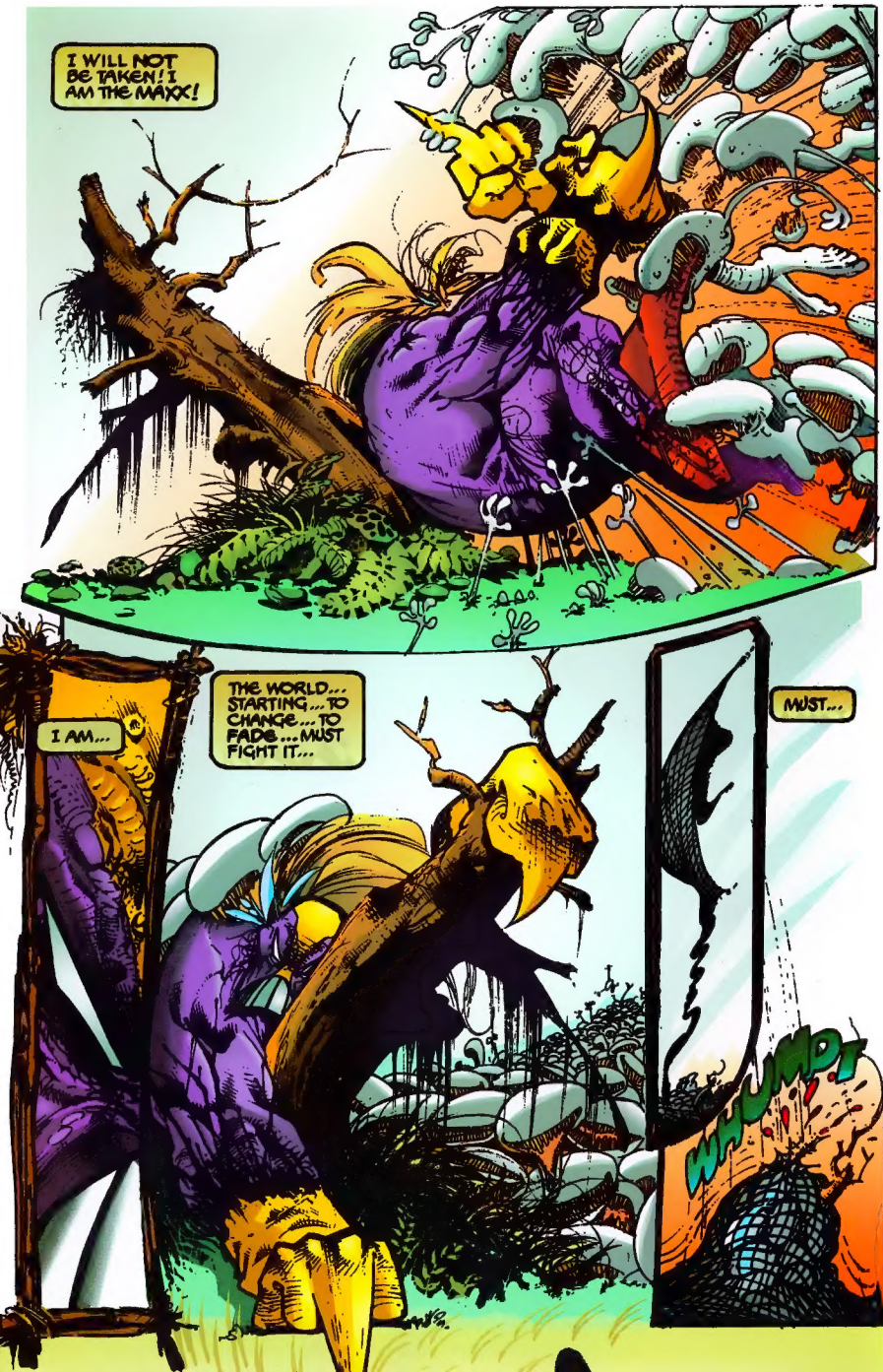
...ME!
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU LITTLE SHEEP! RUN! YOU'LL LEAD ME RIGHT TO HIM!
THE POUNDING IN MY HEAD IS LIKE AN ICE PICK, BUT I CAN'T STOP.
ONE MINUTE I SAW JULIE WINTERS IN MY MIND, DRESSED AS THE LEOPARD QUEEN AND INSANE...
OUTWORLD SURFERS
...THE NEXT I WAS BACK HERE, STILL CHASING THIS LITTLE MONSTER!
THE GAWKERS GLARE AT ME, SINCE TO THEM THE ISZ LOOKS LIKE A 96 YEAR OLD GRANDMOTHER...
BUT I KNOW THAT IT IS A TOOL OF THE EVIL SORCERER, MR. CONE, WHO IS A SERIAL RAPIST AND MURDERER! HE WILL DESTROY THIS CITY UNLESS I STOP HIM!
OF COURSE, MAYBE THEY'RE ALL STARING AT ME 'CAUSE I THINK I JUST SAID ALL OF THAT OUT LOUD. OOPS.


CHUNG.CHUNG.CHUNG.CHUNG.CHUN
CRAP.
IT HAPPENED AGAIN.
THE MUSIC AND THE BEATING IN MY HEAD BUILD AND BUILD... AND THEN I WAKE UP BACK HERE. THE OUTBACK.
BUT THIS TIME I'VE GOT TO KEEP MY CITY MEMORIES!
I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER ABOUT MR. GONE TERRORIZING THE CITY! REMEMBER ALL THE PEOPLE WHO'LL BE MUTILATED OR KILLED IF I DON'T FIND HIM.
I WONDER WHY I'M CHASING THIS ISZ?
REMEMBER...
WELL, I PROBABLY HAD A GOOD REASON.

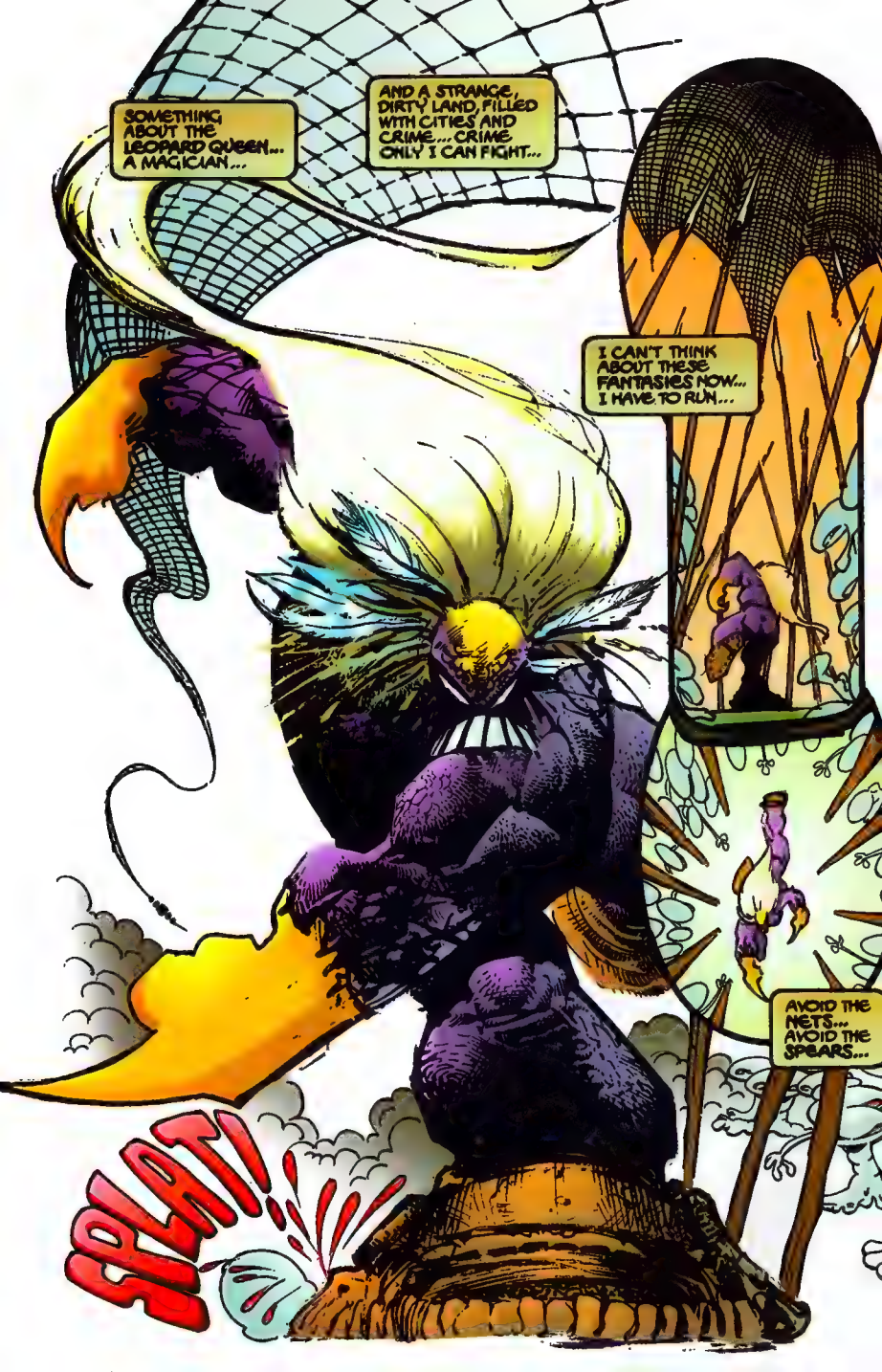

I'M THE KING OF THIS SAVAGE PLACE!
ALL WHO KNOW ME FEAR THE NAME OF THE MAXX!
WHY DO I FEEL AS THOUGH INSTEAD OF GRASS I AM FORCING MYSELF THROUGH A HORDE OF PEOPLE...?
PEOPLE FROM ANOTHER LIFE, WHO LOOK AT ME WITH FEAR AND CONTEMPT!


NO! I AM THE MAXX! I MUST NOT GIVE IN TO THESE FANTASIES OF WEAKNESS! DOUBTLESS THIS IS SOME CHARM, LAID ON ME BY AN EVIL SHAMAN!
...EVIL SORCERER...
THE WORLD FLICKERS ABOUT ME AS I RUN...
...PASSING BY LIKE THE SPOKES OF A SPINNING WHEEL...
LIGHT AND DARK...
REAL AND UNREAL...
SUDDENLY, EVEN A PASSING AIR WHALE HAS TWO FORMS AND TWO MEANINGS...
NO, I CANNOT BE DISTRACTED! ONLY THE CHASE HAS MEANING!
AND THE ISZ CANNOT MATCH ME! I...
...ALMOST HAVE IT!


SPEARS!
ONE OF THE DEADFALLS SET BY SOME ANCIENT, UNKNOWN HAND THAT MAKES LIFE HERE SO DANGEROUS AND UNSTABLE!
THE SPOTTED SEUSSADON DIES INSTANTLY...
...BUT I SURVIVE...
...AND TRIUMPH!
MREEEP!
MREEP! MREEP!
THE SEUSSADON IS GONE IN AN INSTANT...
DRAGGED DOWN TO SOME STYGIAN PIT!
MREEEP!
I HAVE MY PRIZE... BUT I CANNOT REMEMBER WHY I...
SUDDENLY, AND MUCH TOO LATE, I RECOGNIZE THE MUFFLED ROAR...AN ISZ STAMPEDE!
DRAWN BY MY QUARRY'S CRIES, A THOUSAND MINDLESS, PANICKED ISZ TURN ON ME, SWIMMING FROM THE GROUND LIKE MOLES...


I WILL NOT BE TAKEN! I AM THE MAXX!
I AM...
THE WORLD... STARTING... TO CHANGE... TO FADE... MUST FIGHT IT...
MUST...
WHUMP!

NO!
SLICE
SLICE
MEEP
SPLAT
SQUAWK
MEEP
HACK
HACK
HACK
THEY ARE ALL DEAD! ALL! I HAVE KILLED ALL...
...UM...
I HAVE PENETRATED TO THE WET, SOFT, WHITE, SQUISHY, BE-TOOTHED HEART OF DARKNESS!
BUT WHY?


SOMETHING ABOUT THE LEOPARD QUEEN... A MAGICIAN...
AND A STRANGE, DIRTY LAND, FILLED WITH CITIES AND CRIME... CRIME ONLY I CAN FIGHT...
I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THESE FANTASIES NOW... I HAVE TO RUN...
AVOID THE NETS... AVOID THE SPEARS...
SPLAT!

DAMN!
THE NET WAS TOO FAST FOR ME! I FEEL MYSELF DRAGGED UNDERGROUND, TO SOME DESPERATE FATE!
BUT I WILL BE FREE!
FOR I AM...
...THE...
CHUMP

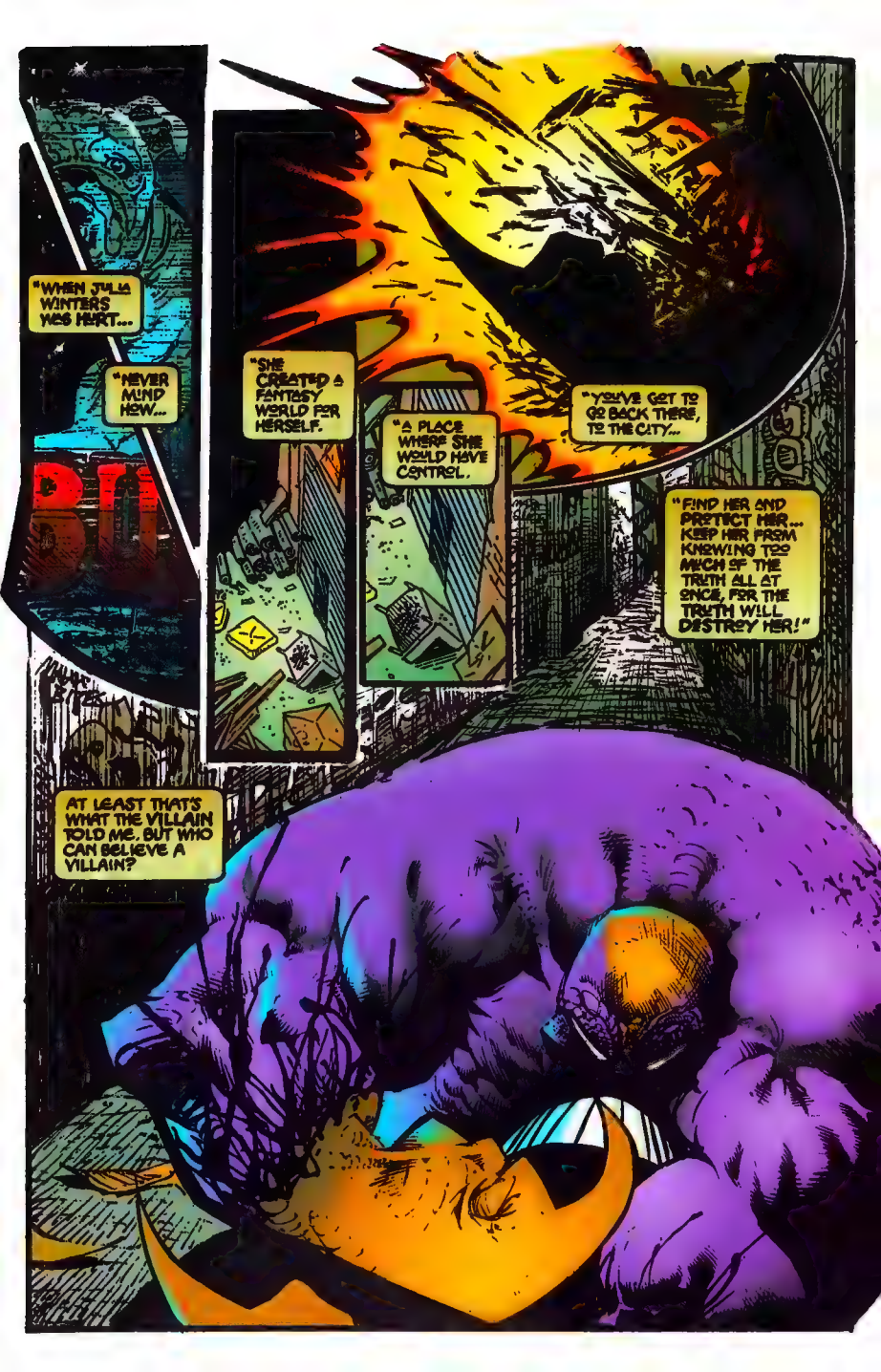
mommy!
NO!
I HATE WAKING UP TO SOMEONE ELSE'S NIGHT-MARE.
I ESPECIALLY HATE WAKING UP IN SOME-ONE ELSE'S BATHROOM.
AND WHAT'S EVEN WORSE, THIS BATHROOM HAS LEAKY PIPES!
DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP
DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP
I DON'T KNOW WHY I KNOW THIS IS A BATHROOM.
DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP
I AM THE KING OF THE WILDPLACES. I SHOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PIPES AND GASKETS AND TRAPS AND VALVES...BUT I DO.
JUST LIKE I KNOW THAT DREAM WAS NOT MY DREAM!
IT BELONGED TO THE LEOPARD QUEEN, IN SOME WAY I CAN'T EXPLAIN.
MAYBE IF I CAN MAKE THIS LITTLE PUMP STOP DRIP-PING, I CAN THINK.
LESSEE, THE ROD GOES UP AND THE WATER STOPS...
THE ROD GOES DOWN AND...

SPLOOMSHIP
A LITTLE CONFUSED BY THE MODERN TECHNOLOGY, EH, BR'ER LAPPIN?
BOO!
PRETTY NEAT MASK, RIGHT? I USE IT TO FRIGHTEN THE NATIVES AWAY FROM MY ISZ HARVESTING OPERATIONS.
I NOT ONLY NEED TO TRAP THOSE LITTLE BUGGERS, BUT ENOUGH LARGER ANIMALS TO KEEP THEM FED, AS WELL!
DON'T WORRY, IT'S ONLY ME, MR. GONE... MAN OF TWO WORLDS, AND MASTER OF DISGUISE!
GIVE THIS TO JULIE WINTERS WHEN YOU SEE HER. AFTER MY ENCOUNTER WITH HER ON THE FIFTH ZONE, I MAY NOT HAVE A HEAD TO GO BACK TO!
WHAP!

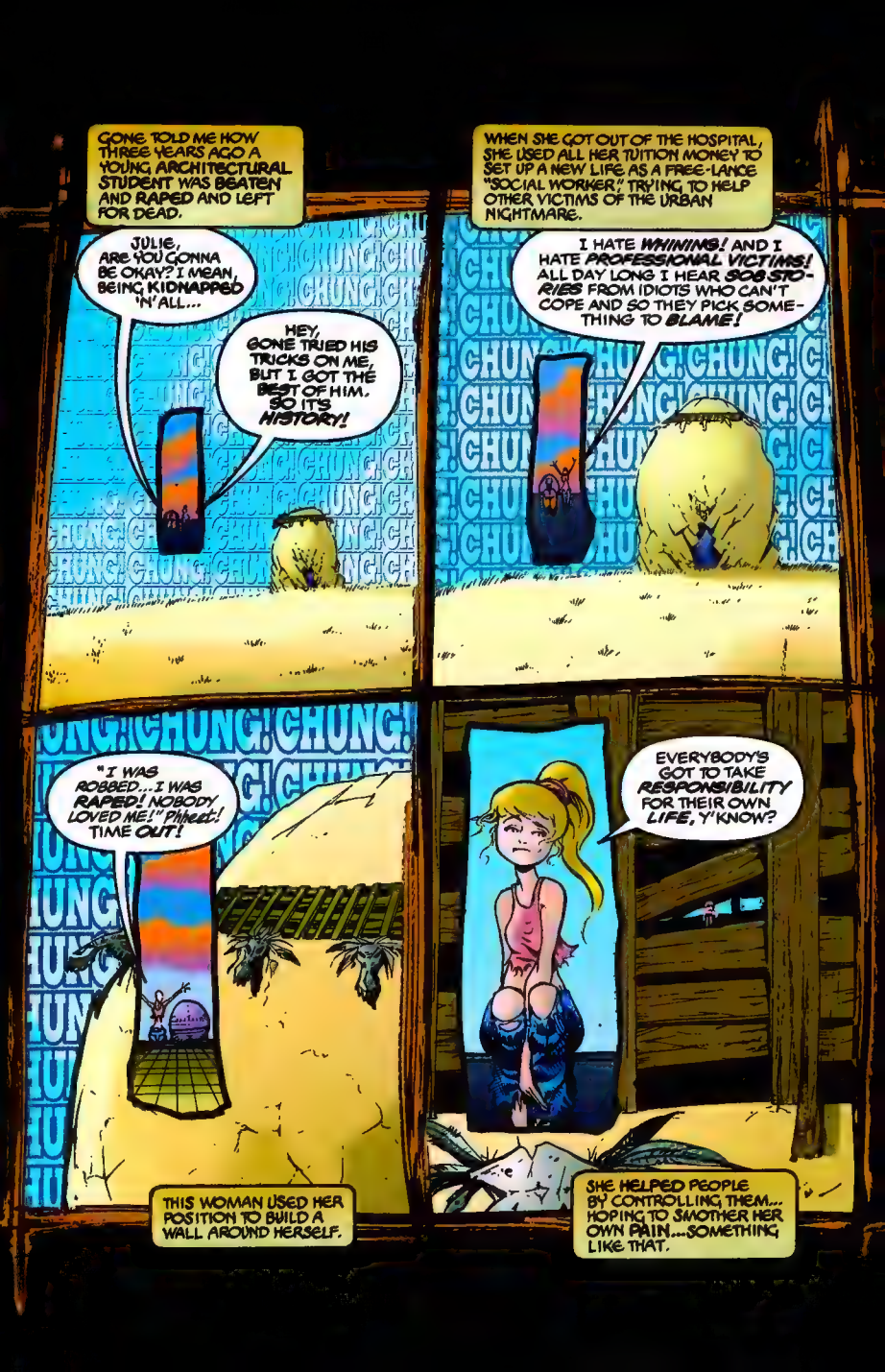
AHH, ANOTHER TUSSLE! GOOD FOR THE SOUL!
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER OUR FIGHT BACK AT THE GAS STATION, DO YOU?
EAT DROPPINGS, PUCKWALLOW!
CRACK
NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY, BR'ER LAPPIN! DO THEY TEACH YOU TO TALK LIKE THAT BACK AT THE WARREN?
MEAT-BREATH! ANT TEEKLER!
AND YOU'RE A LOT STRONGER ON THIS SIDE! I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT!
HAIRLESS SUCKLING!

MAXX! WE CAN'T WASTE OUR TIME LIKE THIS!
WHY NOT?
I FIGHT EVIL... AND YOU ARE EVIL!
NO, NO! THAT'S JUST IT! YOU'RE NO SUPERHERO! YOU'RE A PROTECTER... JULIE WINN... I MEAN THE LEOPARD QUEEN'S PROTECTER.
HUH?
POP
THE TWO OF YOU ARE SOUL-LINKED! WHAT SHE FEELS, YOU FEEL!
AND SHE IS LOST... LOST IN THE CITY AND IN HER OWN MIND!
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU, VILE SORCERER?
POP
MAXX
MAXX
MAXX
POP
MAXX!
WHAT?
POP
LET ME JUST CONVINCE YOU...
...WITH ONE WORD...
POP
MOMMY.

YOU SEE, I KNEW ABOUT THE DREAM...ABOUT THE DOLL...ABOUT EVERYTHING!
I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE...
WHO YOU WERE BEFORE YOU FOUND THE MASK LYING IN THE MUD...
AND WHAT YOU ARE NOW, BEHIND THE MASK, THOUGH YOU'VE BEEN TOO COWARDLY TO LOOK!
TELL ME.
MAYBE LATER. THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU IS ONLY EMBARRASSING ...JULIE'S TRUTH COULD DESTROY HER!
AND THIS... JULIE AND THE QUEEN OF THE LEOPARD WOMEN...ARE ONE?
YEP, MAN, THIS IS GONNA BE A LONG NIGHT!
THIS PRIMITIVE PLANE, WHICH YOU THINK IS AUSTRALIA AND I CALL PANGAEA, IS ALL THAT IS REAL...
THE OTHER WORLD IS A DREAM, WHERE WE ARE TRAPPED PLAYING OUT...
...OUR DEEPEST FANTASIES...


"WHEN JULIA WINTERS WAS HURT...
"NEVER MIND HOW...
"SHE CREATED A FANTASY WORLD FOR HERSELF.
"A PLACE WHERE SHE WOULD HAVE CONTROL.
"YOU'VE GOT TO GO BACK THERE, TO THE CITY...
"FIND HER AND PROTECT HER... KEEP HER FROM KNOWING TOO MUCH OF THE TRUTH ALL AT ONCE, FOR THE TRUTH WILL DESTROY HER!"
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THE VILLAIN TOLD ME. BUT WHO CAN BELIEVE A VILLAIN?

STILL, AS I TALK TO JULIE, I CAN'T HELP REMEMBERING HIS WORDS. HE NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING STRAIGHT OUT, ONLY IN RIDDLES, BUT...
HE IMPLIED A LOT. HE HINTED SHE WAS IN DANGER, MAYBE FROM HERSELF...
D'YOU THINK WE'RE READY FOR TOENAIL CLIPPING AT THIS STAGE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP?
Ho ho. FUNNY BOY.
HERE, LET ME DO IT. YOU'RE TOO CAREFUL!
SHE SEEMS A LOT QUIETER SINCE HER ENCOUNTER WITH MR. GONE. MORE PENSIVE. CALMER...
YOU GOTTA GET RIGHT IN THERE AND TRIM THOSE BABIES!
WEIRDER.


GONE TOLD ME HOW THREE YEARS AGO A YOUNG ARCHITECTURAL STUDENT WAS BEATEN AND RAPED AND LEFT FOR DEAD.
JULIE, ARE YOU GONNA BE OKAY? I MEAN, BEING KIDNAPPED 'N' ALL...
HEY, GONE TRIED HIS TRICKS ON ME, BUT I GOT THE BEST OF HIM. SO IT'S HISTORY!
WHEN SHE GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, SHE USED ALL HER TUITION MONEY TO SET UP A NEW LIFE AS A FREE-LANCE "SOCIAL WORKER," TRY'ING TO HELP OTHER VICTIMS OF THE URBAN NIGHTMARE.
I HATE WHININS! AND I HATE PROFESSIONAL VICTIMS! ALL DAY LONG I HEAR SOB STORIES FROM IDIOTS WHO CAN'T COPE AND SO THEY PICK SOMETHING TO BLAME!
"I WAS ROBBED...I WAS RAPED! NOBODY LOVED ME!" Phhrrt! TIME OUT!
EVERYBODY'S GOT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN LIFE, Y'KNOW?
THIS WOMAN USED HER POSITION TO BUILD A WALL AROUND HERSELF.
SHE HELPED PEOPLE BY CONTROLLING THEM... HOPING TO SMOTHER HER OWN PAIN...SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

AND SOMEWHERE IN THE WILD LAND, IN THE LAND OF DREAMS, IN PANGAEA... HER BETTER SELF WAS IMPRISONED, BY HER OWN SELF-LOATHING.
I DUNNO, SEEMS LIKE IF SOMEBODY'S RAPED, IT'S NOT LIKE A TEST YOU FAILED OR A JOB WHERE YOU GET FIRED...
IT'S SOMEBODY ELSE'S GUILT FOR ONCE! YOU GET TO HAVE YOUR OWN ANGER AND...
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT GONE TOLD ME. I DON'T KNOW IF I BELIEVED ANYTHING HE SAID, LEAST OF ALL ABOUT JULIE.
HEY, MAXX. SAVE THE LIBERAL-FEMINIST GARBAGE FOR SOMEONE WHO CARES, 'KAY?
SORRY. I KNOW YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO WATCH OUT FOR ME, LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO. BUT IT'S OVER NOW. I CUT THE BASTARD'S HEAD FREE. YOU CHASED HIM BACK TO GOD-KNOWS-WHERE. IT'S OVER.
AND I'M GOING T'BE JUST FINE.
IN FACT, I WAS ALREADY HAVING TROUBLE REMEMBERING THE DETAILS OF WHAT HE SAID. IT WAS LIKE A DREAM.
A REALLY BAD DREAM.
NEXT MONTH
THE LAND BITES!

**Letters! We're getting hundreds of letters from all over the world, and Maxx is mighty grateful. Sorry we won't be able to answer all of these—if Sam did personal art criticism, collaboration, or original sketches, for example, he'd have no time to get the book out. Also: the Image guys work as individuals, so there is no submissions editor. Please remember, too, that whatever you send in might get lost or mutilated in the mail. Never send originals that you want back. I know all this may sound a little discouraging, but if it takes me a million years, I'm gonna read every one of these little suckers that you guys sent in.**

***Here's more stuff people wrote:***

Dear Sam,
Does Br'er like Pez?

Tom Maestas
Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Yes, very much. Maxx is a Pez freak. He also likes toast.**

Sam,
Do the isz have eyes?

David Carrier
Windham, ME

**The isz have no eyes; they must use their sense of smell to find their direction.**

Dear Sam,
I'm not the biggest, strongest, or smartest kid in school. In fact, I'm pretty much ignored and looked down on by most of the other kids. That's why I like The Maxx. As powerful and strong as he is in the Outback, he's always an underdog in the real world. Make Mine Maxx!

(name withheld by request)

Dear Sam,
My letter was printed in the Maxx #1. However, the name of my city is not "Woodsocket" as it appeared, but it is spelled "Woonsocket." Thank you very much for your time.

Eddie Tellier
WOONSOCKET, Rhode Island

**Sorry we got that wrong. Thanks for writing to clear it up.**

Dear Sam,
The Maxx #1 was filled with great art, although the story was a bit strange. I'm sure that many of the questions I have will be cleared up in later issues.

Fan to the Maxx,
Shane Walsh
Oak Lawn, Illinois

P.S. One question before I go: does the pattern around the panels mean anything? Do they spell something or what?

**Yes they do. The first person to figure out what that is will win ten, no eight, well how 'bout. . .just kidding!**

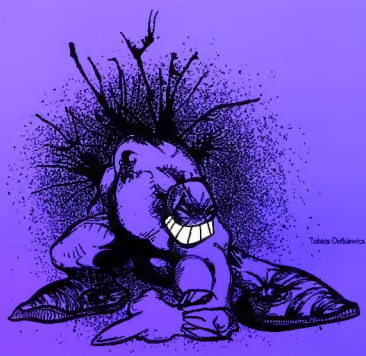
Dear Sam Kieth,
Why don't girls in my town dress in pants like Julia's?

Vincent Hernandez
Grand Prairie, Texas

**They do, Vince. You're just on the wrong side of town.**

To Whom It May Concern (Mr. Sam Kieth, yeah you), I wrote this letter in response to your request for a name for the letter column. [If I win], that glow-in-the-dark first issue could really help me. You see, I go on vacation to an Amish village and they don't use any type of light except for candles and I have fire-a-phobia, that is, the fear of fire, so a glow-in-the-dark comic book would help me a lot. Even if I don't win, your contribution of any glow-in-the-dark object would gladly be appreciated. Just send it to the above address, monetary donations are also gladly appreciated.

Brian D. Gabriel
Portsmouth, Rhode Island



P.S. Most of the above is bull #!@*.
P.S., P.S. The poor guy who wrote in last issue, Eddie Teller, does not live in Woodsocket, R.I., being that there is no Woodsocket, R.I.
I think you mean Woonsocket, R. I., which is in fact a real place, in comparison with Woodsocket, R. I. the non-existent place printed in your comic.

Dear Mr. Kieth,
Does the social health worker have some strange power of switching her belt mid-page, or is it just a manifestation of something bigger. . .
Glen S. Colen
Burke, Virginia

**Well, I'm gonna opt for the Manifestation of Something Bigger Theory. It's a heck of a lot better than the Sam Screwed Up and Forgot to Draw the Belt on the Left Side Just Like He Drew It on the Right Side Theory.**

Sam,
Why the hell did you give Julia pit hairs? A pot belly was bad enough, but pit hairs! Jeez!
(name withheld
by accident sorry)
Redondo Beach,
California

**I was gonna answer this letter, but the letter below answers it for me.**

Mr. Kieth,
My wife told me to write you and thank you for drawing women with bodies like hers; all women aren't as perfect as some of the women drawn in comics. . .but, that doesn't make them less appealing. . .just less perfect.
Toby Mays
Eureka, California

**Amen.**

Dear Sam Kieth,
Do you realize that because of you, bellbottoms are going to come back even faster?
Regards,
Guerin Payne
Chula Vista, California

**Yes, and I still don't care.**

Dear Sam,
Is Maxx really homeless? And if so, why does Julie dump him out on the street every time she busts him out of jail? What kind of a social worker is she?
Ciao,
Matthew Skoufalos
Sewell, New Jersey

**Dysfunctional?**

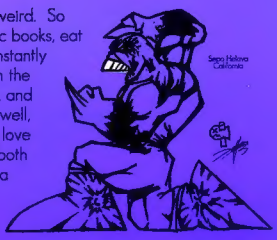
Dear Sam,
I'm a housewife with two kids. It's a little strange for a housewife to collect comic books but I do it. The Maxx was my first comic book of Image that I bought and I'm proud of you. The drawing and everything of it was great. Keep up the great job. You have a great talent. God bless your talent.
Sincerely,
Annette Lopez
Brooklyn, New York.

**Thanks for writing. It's great to hear from female comic fans.**

Hey Sam!
I was wondering if you were a Prince fan, 'cause his two favorite colors are purple and yellow (these are The Maxx's colors). And in his last album he's got a song entitled The Max. Did he forget an X?
Tony Garcia,
Bronx, New York

**Wow! That means that when Prince wrote that Max song, I was drawing The Maxx comic at the same time! What do you think the odds are that, without either of us knowing what the other was doing, we'd do something so similar? Do you suppose that, with Prince being regarded as one of the foremost performers of his generation, fusing many different styles, he has some sort of a link with me artistically? Or is the only link that we are both short with a poor sense of fashion. .**

Dear Mr. Kieth,
People tell me I'm weird. So what if I read comic books, eat styrofoam cups, constantly recite the lines from the movie, Robin Hood, and listen to Elvis. Oh, well, maybe that's why I love The Maxx! We're both three fries short of a Happy Meal.



Hidin' in your trash can,
David "The Polish Rocket" Beach
Harbor Bluffs, Florida

**That's right, Dave. The Maxx is a weird book for weird people. Anybody that doesn't like weird books should stay away. It'll just burn off the weak and make the weirder stronger, so we gotta stick together, us weird, happy-meal-lovin' Maxx-heads. And speaking of Maxx-heads. . .**

Dear Sam,
Praises, praises, praises. The Maxx was fabulous. As far as I'm concerned, the most valued comic in my collection.
I noticed in the previews for June you have The Maxx T-shirts coming out (which I ordered). How about posters!? Also, is there any plan for a Maxx fan club?
Michelle Stickle
Montgomery, Alabama

**More about possible posters later. As to a fan club, we'd have to have a president, someone who has some experience at that sort of thing, who's ORGANIZED, and who's willing to work long, thankless hours for no pay, putting out newsletters and so on. I wonder where we'd get such a person. . .Or if we could even use a fan club. . .**

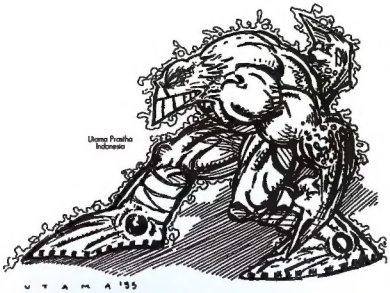
Sam,
Will you ever show The Maxx picking his nose?
Jesus Lee
Lambertville,New Jersey

**You know, I like to think of myself as being as weird as the next guy, but this question stretches even my limits.**

Dear Sam,
I know you won't put up with a lot of accolades, but bringing in Is (or Isz) from Critters was a lot of fun, as was the fact that this MAXX is actually "Max the Hare" from COMICO PRIMER #5.
One more thing—on page 19 of Maxx #1, there was a note saying "Call Sam—585-9110." Well, I did, and it was disconnected. Was this just for suckers like myself?
Chris Bonham
Santa Barbara, California

**No, Maxx didn't pay his phone bill. Actually, that whole thing started with Jim Sinclair, my finisher, who inked the background on that page. By the way, if you ever wonder what Jim does, it's this: most of the time, I pencil the main characters and the foreground figures. Jim tends to handle the background figures. For an example of something that's looks completely like me, check out the first four pages of Maxx #1, which I penciled and inked. For an example of what Jim's work looks like solo, check out the last panel on page 21 of issue #1—that was all him. I also did all of Darker Image #1 (I know it says he did it, but that's a goof). Anyway, Jim put "555," a prefix which doesn't actually exist. I thought that was boring, so changed it to "585." The whole episode wasn't designed to make anyone feel like a sucker. But do us a favor—don't call up strange phone numbers you find on Maxx's walls. . .**

Dear Sam,
What are those doughnuts on Maxx's shoes?
Sincerely,
Emerick Tackett
Topanga, California

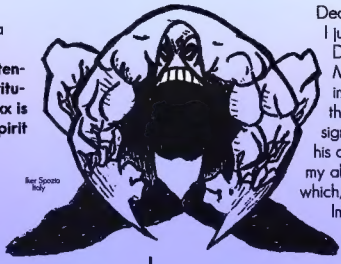



**Doughnuts? Doughnuts? Gee, I never really thought they looked like doughnuts. Bagels, maybe. . .**

Sam,
Thank you! The Maxx is a refreshing step away from the normal run of comics. At first, I must admit, I severely disliked your work in Marvel Comics Presents, but it seems when an artist works for himself rather than a company, his (or her) satisfaction with oneself is apparent. Question: does Julie want Maxx for his body or for his mind?

David McCollum
Huntsville, Alabama

**At the risk of sounding really pretentious, Julia wants Maxx more spiritually than anything else, since Maxx is really just a part of Julia, in the spirit world, anyway.**




Dear Mr. Kieth,
Maxx #1 was great. Nothing like a twisted superhero that doesn't remember anything, chases foot-and-a-half black things, and talks out loud!

A new fan,
Michael Clark
Hays, Kansas

Dear Sirs at Image Comics,
I have only been reading comics for a year now. My husband introduced them to me. I used to think they were childish. But ever since I started reading Image, I've done a complete turnaround. The Maxx #1 further proves comics are worth reading, enjoying, and admiring fine artists such as yourself. You have a fan for life.

Valerie Acree
LaGrange, Kentucky

**This is a pretty cool letter. Thanks from me and all the Image guys.**

Dear Sam,
The Maxx #1 was truly mind-boggling. First of all, he trashes a squirt named Teego and gets arrested for threatening a brute named Fridge. Then he gets bailed out by a babe-and-a-half. I mean, don't get me wrong, but what would a babe like that want with a purple and yellow, large, oversized guy with one heck of an overbite?

Joel Hughes
Kingstree, South Carolina

**Hey, man! Big purple and yellow guys with huge overbites are good for all sort of things.**

Dear Sam Kieth,
I found your character, The Maxx, interesting in that it could be a Simosthenuras occidentalis.

Actually, I was reading a book about Tasmania and came across a passage about some funny-looking animals. Strangely enough, your character could be a taloned kangaroo. It definitely has the feet for it. Was this your original intention?

Might Maxx be a kangaroo?
Thanks for listening,
Jon Hager
Portland, Oregon

**First totem poles, now Simosthenuras occidentalis?**

Dear Sam and the gang,
I just read The Maxx #1 and Darker Image #1 with the Maxx story, and I was suitably impressed! I am very happy that Bill Messner-Loebs has signed on to do the dialogue, as his old comic Journey is still one of my all-time favorites. Speaking of which, that chase scene in Darker Image #1 seemed like such a tribute to Bill, that I pulled out Journey #1 to re-read "The Chase."
Keep up the good work, and I am glad to see that bell-bottoms haven't gone out of style in the comic book world!

Jeff Mason
Gainesville, Florida

**I'm glad to see that Bill Loebs hasn't gone out of style in the comic book world. If you liked the tribute to Bill, check out Epicurus #2, which contains an even more exacting tribute to Bill's famous Journey bear-chasing sequence. (Most of our readers by now are scratching their noggin and thinking what? huh? What the heck are they talking about. You ought to check out some of the old I Before E comics that I did back when I was cutting my teeth. . .)**

**In this tiny corner of comic books, we keep the bellbottom light burning.**